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ABSTRACT

This book analyzes how African and Hispanic Americans perceive and interact with one another, highlighting black-brown relations in Houston, Texas, one of the largest cities with a majority ethnic population and one in which Hispanic Americans outnumber African Americans. Using results from several sociological studies, the book examines: how each group forms and maintains stereotypes of the other; areas in which the two groups conflict and disagree; the crucial role of women in shaping communities' racial attitudes; and areas in which the groups agree and can cooperate to achieve greater political power and social justice. Results indicate that both groups hold many stereotypes about the other. Both groups want to keep dating and marriage within their own group. Women of both groups express the highest sense of black-brown divergence. African and Hispanic Americans share similar attitudes on such issues as allowing prayer in public schools, providing government assistance to the disadvantaged, supporting gay rights, recognizing the primacy of family, maintaining ethnic identity, and using a national identification card to keep undocumented workers from U.S. jobs. (Contains 17 tables and 182 references.) (SM)

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